

REMARKS

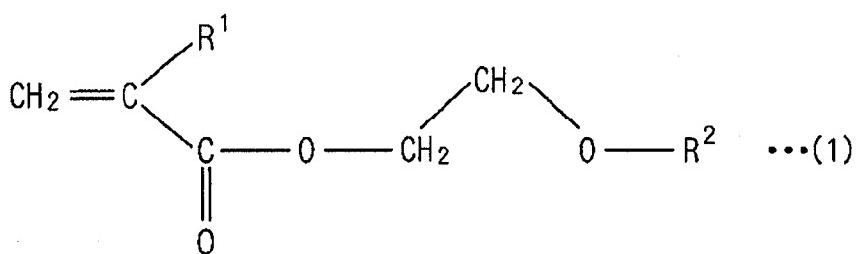
Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 3 has been canceled, and its subject matter incorporated into claim 1. New claims 7-12 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are presented for examination. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in original claim 3. Support for new claims 7 and 9 may be found in the specification at page 3, lines 17-25 and page 4, line 18. Support for new Claim 8, can be found in Table 1 at the bottom of page 21. Claims 10-12 are based on original Claims 2, 4 and 5. Thus, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection in view of the comments presented herein are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori et al. (EP 762208) was maintained. The Examiner dismissed Applicants' unexpected results discussed in their response to the previous Office Action, contending that the examples in the present specification are not commensurate in scope with the present claims.

Claim 9 has been added to recite the range of percentages of component (a) for which specific examples are provided in Applicants' specification, i.e. 65% to 75%. As can be seen in Tables 1 and 2, Samples A and D-H, in which component (a) is present in the recited range, are unexpectedly superior in many different properties compared to Samples B and C in which component (a) is outside the claimed range. In particular, the thick film photoresist composition recited in the present claims enables improvement of the alkali developability and the removability (i.e., during the formation of bumps or the like, following the formation of the resist pattern and subsequent plating, the ease with which the resist pattern is able to be removed). Accordingly, the unexpected results are commensurate in scope with that of new Claim 9. As such, any *prima facie* showing of obviousness would be rebutted. Thus, Claim 9, and Claim 10-12, which depend therefrom, are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the resin component (A) contains, a structural unit (c) derived from a radical polymerizable compound represented by a general formula (1) shown below:



(wherein, R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and R² represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms).

The examples provided in the present specification demonstrate that the use of structural unit (c) unexpectedly results in improvement of the alkali developability and the removability. In particular, the results from testing of Samples A, G and H, in which structural unit (c) is present, can be directly compared with results of Samples E and F, in which no structural unit (c) is present. All five of these samples have approximately the same percentage of component (a) present (from 71 to 75%), which is shown above in connection with the discussion of Claim 1 to dramatically affect performance of the samples. The samples are substantially similar with the exception of the presence of component (c). However, as can be seen in Table 2 Samples A, G and H, including component (c), performed substantially better in the removability test than Samples E and F, which did not include component (c). Thus, it can be seen that component (c) confers significant unexpected benefits on the claimed composition compared to similar compositions lacking component (c). These unexpected results could not have been predicted based on Hattori et al., and would effectively rebut any *prima facie* showing of obviousness if one were present. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection over the Hattori et al. reference is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all claims are now believed to be fully in condition for allowance. However, if minor matters remain which could be resolved by teleconference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: 
Neil S. Bartfeld, Ph.D.
Registration No. 39,901
Agent of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550

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